

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 AID-20 DPW-01

SR-02 ORM-03 /176 W

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R 211108Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2168

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10084

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PJRNT, PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJ: PAKISTAN'S POLICY ON KASHMIR

REF: ISLAMABAD 10004

1. DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON PRIMIN BHUTTO ON
NOVEMBER 21,

I NOTED THAT I HAD DISCUSSED KASHMIR WITH FONSEC SHAHI
SEVERAL DAYS AGO, BEFORE FONSEC HAD HAD OCCASION TO DIS-
CUSS PERSONALLY WITH BHUTTO THE LATTER'S RECENT VISIT
TO KASHMIR. BHUTTO SAID SHAHI HAD TOLD HIM OF OUR TALK.
HE THOUGHT SHAHI HAD TAKEN JUST THE RIGHT LINE WITH ME IN
EXPLAINING BHUTTO'S POSITION, AND HE HAD TOLD SHAHI SO.
THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN HIS POSITION ON MOVE TOWARD A PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT ON KASHMIR, AND HE DID NOT WISH THE AREA TO BECOME
THE FOCUS OF ACTIVE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN
PENDING SUCH SETTLEMENT. THIS HAD BEEN HIS FIRST VISIT TO
KASHMIR AS PAKISTAN'S LEADER AND HE COULD NOT DO LESS THAN
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RESPOND TO FEELINGS OF LOCAL POPULATION THAT THEY HAD BEEN

RATHER NEGLECTED BY THE GOP.

2. I ASKED WHAT HE HAD HAD IN MIND IN HIS REFERENCE TO "GUERILLAS, WHICH I HAD FOUND SOMEWHAT CONFUSING FROM THE FRAGMENTARY PRESS REPORTS. BHUTTO SAID THE SUBJECT CAME UP IN A PUBLIC MEETING AT MIRPUR, WHERE SOME 25-30 LEFTIST STUDENTS HAD RAISED HUE AND CRY AND ATTEMPTED TO DISRUPT MEETING; THEY HAD SPOKEN ABOUT GUERILLA ACTIVITIES. BHUTTO SAID HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO PUT THEM IN THEIR PLACE AND HIS REMARKS WERE MADE IN THAT CONTEXT. HE HAD THEN ARRANGED FOR 10 OF THE STUDENT ACTIVISTS TO BE ARRESTED; THEY WERE RELEASED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. BHUTTO ASSURED ME THAT HIS REMARKS WERE GENUINELY NOT INTENDED AS ENCOURAGEMENT TO ANY GUERILLA MOVEMENT AIMED AT INDIAN KASHMIR.

3. AS FOR HIS STATEMENT IN KASHMIR THAT HE WOULD CALL FOR HARTAL ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LINE ON A DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED BY HIM, BHUTTO IMPLIED TO ME THAT HE WOULD NOT BE IN A HURRY TO FIX THE DATE.

4. BHUTTO REFERRED TO MESSAGE ON HIS KASHMIR STATEMENTS RECEIVED FROM GOI AS MORE OF A "CALLING ATTENTION" THAN A "PROTEST". IT WAS COUCHED IN MILD LANGUAGE AND HE THOUGHT THE BEST THING TO DO WAS TO PUT IT ASIDE IN BELIEF THAT NO REPLY WAS NEEDED.

5. AZIZ AHMED (MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS) GAVE ME HIS OWN INTERPRETATION OF GOP'S POLICY RE KASHMIR DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON HIM NOVEMBER 20. HE SAW FOUR KEY POINTS: (A) UN REFERENCES DATING BACK MORE THAN 20 YEARS WERE TO "LOCAL AUTHORITY" IN THE DISPUTED SEGMENTS OF KASHMIR. THE AZAD KASHMIRIS FELT THEY HAD BEEN NEGLECTED BY GOP. BHUTTO OFFERED VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES TO GIVE THEM SOME FORMAL STATUS WITHIN PAKISTAN AS PART OF EFFORT TO OVERCOME THEIR GRIEVANCE. (B) PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION REMAINED AS FIRM ELEMENT OF PAKISTAN POLICY. (C) MODE OF SETTLEMENT: IT HAD TO BE PEACEFUL; CONFIDENTIAL

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THERE WAS TO BE NO WAR BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN AS THEY SOUGHT WAYS TO SETTLE THIS DISPUTE. (D) TIMING OF MOVE FOR SETTLEMENT: THERE WILL HAVE TO BE TALKS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN, BUT THESE CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE AFTER OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS FORESEEN AT SIMLA HAVE BEEN TAKEN CARE OF AND NORMALIZATION IS WELL UNDER WAY. AHMED SAID THAT THE "OTHER ISSUES" LEADING TO NORMALIZATION WILL HAVE TO AWAIT FIRM AGREEMENT ON THE RETURN TO PAKISTAN

OF THE 195 POWS WHOM BANGLADESH IS SAID TO BE DESIROUS
OF PUTTING ON TRIAL.

6. COMMENT: BHUTTO'S OWN INTERPRETATION OF IMPORT OF
HIS STATEMENTS IN RECENT TOUR OF AZAD KASHMIR SUPPORTS
THESIS THAT GOP DOES NOT WANT TO PROVOKE CONFRONTATION WITH
INDIA. IT SEEMS THERE WAS A LARGE ELEMENT OF DOMESTIC
POLITICS IN HIS STATEMENTS TO THE KASHMIRIS.
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